Young People's Permanent

1823

Princeton Theological Seminary

A very handsome quilt made by Miss Sophia M. Johnston, daughter of the Rev. John Johnston, Newburgh, New York, and finished when she was only three years, nine months and nine days old.

1877

Report - Board of Home Missions

"Presbyterian Organizations - Mission Bands - Sabbath Schools, Bible classes, Young Ladies in Seminaries and colleges, have sent forward their contributions."

We continue to receive encouragement from Sabbath schools. So many have become interested in our work, that in accordance with the record of the last General Assembly the Board has cheerfully arranged a column in our receipts for donations from Sabbath schools.

1878

Sabbath Schools $10,822.70

1893

For Board of Home Missions

Sabbath Schools and the Y.P.S.C.E. - $47,074.28

For School Work

Societies and Bands	$187,128.19
Sabbath Schools	17,555.31
Y.P.S.E.E.	5,600.21

Officers

Rev. Thornton B. Penfield - Young People's Department

1895

Miss E. M. Wishard - Secretary of Young People's Department

1896

The work of our Young People's Department has shown steady progress in the last year. While in many quarters the amounts of collections have decreased, the number of contributing organizations has increased. A few comparisons will serve to illustrate this. In the year 1894-5 there were 156 contributing societies of Christian Endeavor in the State of New York who gave $2093.84 directly to the Board. In the last year 233 societies gave $2477.31 directly to the Board. In Pennsylvania in 1894-5, 120 societies gave $821.80. In 1895-6 there were 155 societies who gave $1100.92. In Ohio, in 1894-5, 32 societies gave $420.93, while this last year 48 societies gave only $398.75. Iowa shows a similar record for the year, while there is a marked falling off of receipts in Illinois, but almost twice as many contributing organizations.

In Sunday-schools the same interesting conditions are manifest in the various Synods. It is evident that the interest in this work is more general than ever before, but outside influences have been felt which have tended to reduce the amounts sent directly to the Board of Home Mission Work. The total amount received for Home Missions from the Young People of the Church for the year was $59,266.13.

In order to do the work which was precipitated upon the office, and to bring order out of chaos, it was necessary at first to employ two efficient young Secretaries who were familiar with the methods of these societies. The Board elected the Rev. Thornton B. Penfield, and the Woman's Executive Committee engaged Miss Elizabeth M. Wishard. With wisdom and success these young officers have managed their delicate and difficult task. So thoroughly has the work of organization been accomplished, both as to the methods in the office and the adjustments throughout the Church, that it has been thought that one Secretary can hereafter conduct the affairs of the office.

The complete organization of the auxiliaries of the Woman's Executive Committee in the Synods, Presbyteries and churches, and their close touch with the societies

of young people, suggest the wisdom of committing the management of this department to them, subject to the counsel and supervision of the Secretaries of the Board. The receipts from these societies are hereafter to be divided equally between the Board and the Woman's Executive Committee.

Mr. Penfield retires from the work with the well-earned gratitude of the Board for the rare skill and unflinching fidelity with which he has organized and conducted this new office.

1897

Owing to the fact that the past year has been the first of the consolidated departments of Young People's work, it has been a year of experiment. It is, however, believed that the presentation of the work of one Secretary at Headquarters has simplified to the young people of the Church the mission work done under its auspices.

Systematic study and thorough knowledge of the needs will insure increased receipts year by year. The department has, therefore, striven toward those ends, and has been encouraged by the large number of contributing societies, and by the demands for literature and definite information.

1898

This year has witnessed the change of the title of the "Woman's Executive Committee" to the briefer and more definite name of "The Woman's Board."

It is a department of the general work of the Board. It has a separate treasury, the funds of which are gathered by the women and children of the Church and administered by the Woman's Board. These funds are applied to the special work of evangelization which the Board could not otherwise prosecute.

Its fundamental work is that of education among what are called "The

It is carried on among Alaskans, Indians, Mexicans, Mormons, and the mountaineers of the south. The children and youth are the promising material on which to work among these people.

More than 70 churches have already been established as the direct result of the school work. It is, therefore a misconception to think of this part of our Home Mission service as in any sense secular. The Bible is a daily text-book and Christian influence is inwrought with the entire work. The teachers are missionaries, preaching often in the most effective and economic way.

Furthermore, the Woman's Board accepts the responsibility to which the advance of its work leads by supporting pastors and evangelists when the school rices into a mission church. It raises money for the buildings for its own schools and teachers' homes, chapels and manses. Property to the amount of $750,000 has thus accrued to the Presbyterian Church and is held by the Board in trust for the Woman's Board, or has been turned over to the several Presbyteries covering the bounds of the field. The last General Assembly recommended the enlargement of the evangelistic work of the Woman's Board. In this connection it is gratifying to state that during the past year it has carried, in whole or in part, the support of missionariew and evangelists at a cost of $8580, and proposes in the coming year to care for all the Alaskan work at a cost of $11,000 additional.

1899

The Board of Home Missions and the Woman's Board have found study progress made in this joint department, because of the methodical presentation of the general work of home missions to the young people of the church. This is facilitated by the use of the fine organization of the Woman's Board, which, synodically, presbyterially and locally, provides a systematic means of reaching Christian Endeavor and other societies of young people.

The broad outlook taken by means of the presentation of specific objects in widely different fields has resulted in contributions to the support of missionaries and missionary teachers in the mountains of the south, in Dakota, Arizona, Indian Territory, New Mexico and Utah, and also to the prosecution of the evangelistic and mission school work in Alaska. The interesting details

of field work are secured to the young people by the pledge blanks they receive through the women's organizations and fill out any promise of contributions to the Board and the Woman's Board. It is the simple and impartial system; it has worked well, and to the manifest advantage of the treasury of the Board.

1900

This department is primarily for the education of our young people in Home Missions; and in looking over the past year we note many encouraging signs.

Seventeen full salaries are paid by Endeavor Societies, ten of these being to ministers or Synodical Missionaries, and others superintendents of boarding or day schools. Junior C. E's. have paid the salaries of seven Indian pastors and have contributed toward the training school for boys. In several instances the societies of one Presbytery, or a group of Sabbath-schools, have adopted one special worker, and in this way our young people are represented in all of our Home Mission fields, including Porto Rico. This department periodically provides letters from the different fields to all who desire them, thus securing from contributors continued interest in the special laborer assigned them. In addition to these salaries there has been an increase in contributions to the General Fund, showing that our young people are learning that the Endeavor Societies offerings are equally divided between the Board of Home Missions and the Woman's Board.

1901

The sum total of contributions from Christian Endeavor Societies is divided equally between the Board and the Woman's Board, according to the initial plan of the department, and special objects and salaries are equitably apportioned from both Boards.

The work is passing through synodical and presbyterial young people's secretaries to the local missionary committee, but correspondence with individuals

is unlimited.

Sunday schools have come to the front more prominently this year and a more systematic, regular sending of funds is noticed. In general, the one word "advance" covers the work of this department, where Sunday schools and all young people's organizations have made a gain over last year.

1903

The Young People's Department is not a separate organization, but an integral part of the home mission work of the Presbyterian Church. Its aim is to arouse and stimulate interest in home missions among Presbyterian young people. The Presbyterial Young People's Secretaries are furnished free (from the New York office) with all necessary help in literature and letters from the field. In addition to sending out information in this way, correspondence is carried on suggesting methods for local work. One of the new features of the year is the inauguration of the study class scheme, and books are now being prepared to meet the needs of classes organized for the investigation of home mission fields.

Two Sabbaths were given to Home Missions by our Sabbath-schools, by order of the General Assembly. For this occasion special programs were prepared, and over 92,000 copies furnished on application. Requests for special objects from the Sabbath-schools and Young People's Societies have increased, and in addition in most synods the young people contribute to their "specials" including work of both missionary pastors and teachers.

1905

We have pleasure in presenting herewith the report of the Young People's Department, which has had the approval of the Board:

1904		1905
$39,036.78	Sunday-schools,	$40,539.74
28.630.38	C.E. and Junior C.E. Societies,	29,378.76
22,760.26	Other Y.P. Organizations,	25,064.93

In the cumming up of the year's work of the Board of Home Missions, and in the monthly financial statements issued from the Treasurer's Office, no figures are watched with keener interest than those representing the offerings from young people's organizations, for no contributions are less dependable, although in no department of our Church work is the "power of the littles" more fully demonstrated.

The average contribution for home missions from young people's societies is about $5.00, and the calls upon their treasuries are innumerable; but what our young people are doing for the evangelization of our country is much more than can be shown in the figures of this report.....

Sunday-schools. - We are assured that the special programmes prepared for the "Sabbath preceding Thanksgiving" (for mission school work) and "The Sabbath nearest Washington's Birthday" (for the evangelistic work) are helpful to superintendents, and experience convinces us that many Sunday-schools would make no offering for home missions were it not for these special services - provided free to those who apply for them. The contributions from Sunday-schools were as follows:

Home Board	$17,879.90
Woman's Board	22,659.84

A gain for both sides, and a total gain from Sunday-schools of $1502.96.

Mission Bands. - While the number of new Bands may not be larger than last year, reports from various sources indicate that home missions has an equal chance with foreign for the first time in the history of a number of these organizations, and we believe this is due to a more faithful "mothering" on the part of the

women's societies to which they are auxiliary.

Junior Societies. - For several years one general object has been assigned to Bands and Junior Societies, but a division of interest seemed advisable, and this year the maintenance of Endeavor Building - the charity building of the hospital group at San Juan, Porto Rico - was asked of the Juniors, while the general work of the Sitka Industrial School is still assigned to Bands. This change of object has proved popular, and the children has shown new enthusiasm through sending hospital supplies as well as money contributions.

Offerings. - Contributions from young people's organizations were as follows:

Christian Endeavor and Junior Christian Endeavor	$29,378.76
Other Young People's Societies and Bands	25,064.93

An advance all along the line. It seems necessary to repeat each year the statement that no rule is enforced by which the young people are ordered to send their funds through one special channel.

1910

Probably the clearest evidence of growth in this department is in mission study in young people's societies and Sunday-schools. The text-book selected by the Young People's Missionary Movement and the Interdenominational Committee for last year was "The Upward Path" - a book on the Negro problem. The study of "The Challenge of the City" has been revived, perhaps because of the special problems in our larger cities and the great influx of foreigners. Our "helps" for this study course are limited, and the leaflets of the Church and Labor Departments have, therefore, been especially acceptable.

The ever widening interest in manifested in our printed field letters, programs and helps for missionary meetings.....

The summer missionary conferences, institutes, rallies, and so forth, are of increasing value. The Presbyterian delegates afford opportunity for personal

acquaintance and correspondence during the rest of the year, so that the young people are not allowed to forget home missions and the services our young people's department can render their local missionary committees.

Special mention is made of personal presentation of home mission interests at the Sunday-school gatherings, young people's meetings and conferences, during the last Assembly; and also at the National Christian Endeavor Convention in St. Paul.

Our Young People's Department has cooperated heartily with the corresponding departments in the Foreign Board, Board of Publication and Sabbath School Work in various ways, none more particularly than the special effort to secure systematic study of missions in the Sabbath-schools.

The unusual number of changes in presbyterial and synodical secretaries has somewhat complicated the correspondence of the year.

1911

The Secretary of this department presents her thirteenth annual report, which shows study progression. The printed leaflets, letters, mission study supplies and helps for missionary meetings are in very great demand, as they are attractive in form and valuable for general as well as specific information. Study classes have more than doubled during the past year; over 40,000 letters from mission fields, stations, or individuals have been furnished, special objects assigned, methods of work suggested, speakers and study class leaders provided for institutes and conferences, and a multitude of other details which show that the department is keeping this particular piece of the church before our Presbyterian young people.

A gain of over one hundred Chapters of the Westminster Guild is reported. The membership of this comparatively new organization is pledged to divide their study and gifts equally between the Home and Foreign Missions, and also follow a course of Bible Study.

These are but a few of the encouragements of the year. Contributions from the organizations of young people are as follows:

Sunday Schools	$48,964.27
Young People's Societies	30,955.96
Young Ladies and Bands	27,756.03

1913

Beginning with 1888 the Boards Reports show "annual anniversary collection from the Sunday School and Christian Endeavor Societies," for home missions. In 1893 the first itemized statement of these gifts was printed, and the fund reached over $8,000. By this time the young people demanded periodical information of the work toward which they were giving, and the officers of the Board could not give the attention required for such details. The Young People's Department was the result.

It is with pleasure, not unmingled with wonder, that we compare the financial records of the past 15 years. In the first report of your present secretary (for the year 1898-99), the statement shows $36,391 from Sunday Schools, and $26,868 from the C. E. Societies. In 1902-03, the figures were, in round numbers, Sunday Schools, $38,000; C. E. and Juniors, $28,000; other young people, $23,000. In 1912-13, the records stand: Sunday Schools, $49,871.22; Young People's Societies, $27,486.82.

1917

Interest in missions in the societies for young people and children of the Church, Young Women's Societies, Young People's Societies, Westminster Guild Chapters and Circles, Light Bearers and Little Light Bearers, has been promoted by the appointment of 64 synodical and 397 presbyterial secretaries for young people's work. Contributions this year from the young people and children amounted to $62,323.47.